

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0035] Forming a proximal anastomosis on an aortic wall includes method and instrumentation and apparatus for forming an aortic puncture and inserting a fluid-impervious sealing element with a lateral flange and central stem into the vessel through the puncture. An anastomosis of a graft vessel over the puncture is partially completed with the central stem of the sealing element protruding through the partial anastomosis. A removal instrument attaches to the central stem and retrieves the sealing element that disassembles in helical disassociation of the flange and stem into a continuous strand that is withdrawn from the partial anastomosis prior to completion of the procedure.